



September 14, 2020

The Honorable Dustin Burrows, Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Chairman Dustin Burrows:

On behalf of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO), I would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to provide written comment on the House Committee on Ways and Means' Interim Charge 4.

TIPRO is one of the largest statewide trade associations in Texas representing the oil and natural gas industry. Our members include the largest producers of oil and gas in the state, as well as hundreds of small to mid-sized independent operators and royalty owners. Collectively, TIPRO members produce approximately 90 percent of the oil and natural gas in Texas and own mineral interests in millions of acres across the state. Our organization's mission, since its inception, is to preserve the ability of independent operators to explore for and produce oil and natural gas.

As you know, the Texas oil and gas industry continues to be a cornerstone of our state economy, currently supporting over 2 million direct and indirect jobs and providing billions of dollars in tax revenue annually that support all aspects of our state. In 2019, our state set a new record for oil and natural gas production with 1.8 billion barrels of oil and 10.4 trillion cubic feet of gas produced. And we expect to continue to set records for Texas oil and natural gas production as the world economy and the industry rebounds from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Interim charge 4 directs the House Committee on Ways and Means to evaluate the status of water recycling and reuse efforts in the oil and gas industry in Texas and elsewhere. As an industry, we recognize the importance of water recycling and reuse. In achieving record setting numbers in oil and gas production last year, wells in the state of Texas produced over 9.1 billion barrels of water. Encouraging the recycling and reuse of water in the oil and gas industry is a prudent and responsible step towards preserving a necessary natural resource for all Texans. TIPRO supports the committee's efforts to encourage and promote water recycling and reuse strategies for produced water in Texas.

TIPRO would like to express our appreciation to you and your fellow committee members for your diligent work during this challenging and unprecedented time. The leadership that you have demonstrated by facilitating feedback and discussion on these interim charges is commendable and for the betterment of the state. We look forward to continued work with the House Ways and Means Committee next session on these issues in order to provide workable solutions to all Texans.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Longanecker
President



Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association

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